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# Addresses Intelligence Symposium

## CIA on Mend, Inman Says

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America's intelligence community, hampered for years by information leaks, budget cuts and an inability to attract new blood to its ranks, is on the mend, aided greatly by CIA Director William Casey and his close friendship with President Reagan, a once high-ranking CIA official said today in Naples.

Perhaps the most important tool in breaking through dense layers of bureaucracy is access to the president, said Adm. Bobby Inman, the CIA's deputy director from 1981 to 1982.

**CASEY INFORMED** President Reagan in 1981 of the dangerous problems afflicting U.S. intelligence agencies in terms of declining manpower and spending limits, Inman told an audience of about 400 people at the Naples Beach Club. He was the first speaker in the Second Annual National Intelligence Symposium co-sponsored by the Naples Daily News and Palmer Communications.

With Reagan's help and some sympathetic U.S. senators — such as Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Intelligence Committee, and Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, the vice chairman — the once sickly intelligence community seems on its way to long-term health.

Inman said the U.S. ability to learn of military movements by the Soviet Union is stronger than ever. However, he said, our knowledge of economic matters within the Soviet bloc is spotty and the ability to collect information on the political scene there is poor and always will be, because "we are dealing with a closed society, where decisions are made by a handful of people."

**THE RETIRED** U.S. Navy admiral said leaks of classified information comprise the biggest problem for today's intelligence gatherers.

The most damaging leaks in the past have come from senior administration officials, who, unaware of the importance of some information, passed it on at cocktail parties or similar social gatherings.

Others tell "their favorite newsmen some juicy tidbit in exchange for favorable news treatment later," Inman said. Such a leak can be particularly damaging if details on how the information is gathered tumble out.

Inman said the strength of U.S. intelligence agencies began to decline in 1964 when they began diverting manpower to collect strategic information for the Vietnam war. They sent agents who were needed to collect information in other parts of the world.

**ALSO AT THAT** time officials began to look at the Defense Department budget, he said. Top officials and budget planners learned that spying was perhaps one of the least cost-effective actions the department undertook and began cutting spending.

Steps to balance international payments of gold also hampered the intelligence community, Inman said, since diplomats were instructed to keep U.S. involvement in foreign countries low-key.

In the mid 1970s tales of abuses within the intelligence community, "some real, and a great many imagined," Inman said began titillating audiences of evening news programs.

Such news resulted in an executive order describing how intelligence agencies should conduct themselves.

"Think of the poor operative in the field trying to observe a manual 130 pages long of thou-shalt-nots," Inman said.